

Draft LCR MSCP Steering Committee
August 23, 2006
Las Vegas, NV

The next meeting of the Steering Committee has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 25, 2007 at McCarran Airport, Las Vegas, NV.

Attending

Lorri Gray
Gerald Zimmerman
Laura Vecerina
Bill Grosse
Lesley Fitzpatrick
Karen Cathey
Glen Gould
Chuck Cullom
Patti Aaron
Bill Werner
Perri Benemelis
Duane Shroufe
Bob Broscheld
David Weedman
Larry Voyles
Tom Hine
Dana Medlock

Doyle Wilson
Wade Noble
Maureen George
Charles Paradzick
Chris Hayes
Cahn Nguyen
David Brownlee
Monica Swartz
Michel Remington
Larry Purcell
Paul Selzer
Phillip Lehr
Anthony Miller
Janet Monaco
Holly Cheong
Bill Davis
Sara Price

Eileen Wynkoop
Steve Koon
Jack Stonehocker
Gary Hansen
Bill Lamb
Fred Worthley
William Davis
John Swett
Jeannie Bouvia

By Telephone

Chris Harris
Annette Morgan
Laura Simonek

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – GERALD ZIMMERMAN

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. with Chairperson Jerry Zimmerman. There were introductions of all attending in person and on the telephone.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved with one addition coming from Lorri Gray to add information on the Managing for Excellence Stakeholders Public Meeting coming up in September (see handout).

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve April 26, 2006, Meeting Notes

The April 26, 2006, Meeting Notes were approved (moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Maureen George, and adopted by consensus).

PLANET RANCH – PHELPS DODGE

A team from Phelps Dodge presented a powerpoint presentation (see the Phelps Dodge presentation) on Planet Ranch, laying out the benefits of this property to Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP).

WORKPLANS AND BUDGET – GRAY/LEHR

Final Implementation Report, FY2007 Work Plan and Budget, FY2005 Accomplishment Report (ACTION) PDD 06-002 “Review and Recommendation FY2007 Work Plan and Budget, FY2005 Credit”

Lorri stated that the documents have been revised and the two documents were combined into one document (see handout). After comments from the Technical Work Group, more information was incorporated into the document. The introduction has a better representation of the work being accomplished by the LCR MSCP. She reviewed the tables in the introduction, the compliance section, and the CESA reporting section. Lesley Fitzpatrick encouraged everyone to take the time and read the document.

There was a motion by Phil Lehr (see letter from the Colorado River Commission of Nevada dated August 14, 2006) as follows: Move that the LCR MSCP Steering Committee approve by consensus the Fiscal Year 2007 Implementation Work Plan and Budget and that Fiscal Year 2005 financial credits be approved for \$6,126,449 (BOR - \$5,980,712; SDCWA - \$145,737). It is recommended that the new format for this report be used in future years.

The motion was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Tom Hine, and adopted by consensus.

Status FY06 Work Plan, FWS Letter on Work Task Additions

Reclamation received a letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see letter), dated May 15, 2006, approving the two new work tasks. The two new projects are B9 Overton Wildlife Management Area that replaced the Boulder City Wetland Ponds and B10 Uvalde National Fish Hatchery that transfers funds from the Bubbling Ponds State Fish Hatchery.

Financial Update

Lorri stated that as of August 3, the program has spent \$9,996,779 of the \$12,144,762 available this fiscal year (see handout). All financial contributions for the fiscal year have been received.

PROJECT UPDATES

Sprawls Island

Lorri stated that the appraisal for Sprawls Island came in and is over 2 million plus. She recommended that the LCR MSCP not pursue purchasing this property due to the limited amount of water.

Imperial Ponds

Lorri presented a DVD presentation on Imperial Ponds. This backwater site is being expanded from 26 to 88 acres and will include six ponds.

PROCESS UPDATES

Draft Final Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas (ACTION) PDD 06-003 "Review and Acknowledgement Draft Final Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas"

Patti Aaron stated that the draft report was available for review on July 28, 2006, followed up with a work group conference call on August 3, 2006. Final comments were incorporated and the August 10, 2006 draft final report was presented to the Steering Committee. It was determined to keep this report in a draft final form to validate the process through the cycle of selecting one riparian site and one backwater site.

There was a motion by Bill Werner (see letter) as follows: Move that the LCR MSCP Steering Committee acknowledge the Draft Final Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas (August 10, 2006) with the recognition that it is the intent of the Program Manager that the document remain in draft form for one full cycle for the securement of at least one riparian habitat and one backwater habitat creation site through the annual work plan process.

The motion was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Phil Lehr, and adopted by consensus.

Draft Final Science Strategy (ACTION) PDD 06-004 "Review and Acknowledgement Draft Final Science Strategy"

John Swett stated that this draft report provides a process for identifying monitoring and research priorities using a 5-year planning cycle. It also provides for an adaptive management process for improving the effectiveness of HCP implementation based on monitoring and research results. This draft report will remain in draft for one year.

There was a motion by Bill Werner (see letter) as follows: Move that the LCR MSCP Steering Committee acknowledge the Draft Final Science Strategy (August 4, 2006) with the recognition that it is the intent of the Program Manager that the document remain in draft form for one year.

The motion was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Monica Swartz, and adopted by consensus.

There was a discussion on comments received from Environmental Groups. Phil L. and Tom H. discussed the possibility of sharing the comments with a selected group of the Steering Committee members to establish comments back to the Environmental Groups. We should also consider creating a record of all of the comments received for future reference.

Final Fish Augmentation Plan (ACTION) PDD 06-005 “Review and Acknowledgement Final Fish Augmentation Plan”

Lorri stated that this report sets forth the implementation strategy for the augmentation stockings of razorback sucker and bonytail into the Lower Colorado River. This is a final report.

There was a motion by Bill Werner (see letter) as follows: Move that the LCR MSCP Steering Committee acknowledge the Final Fish Augmentation Plan. The California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed the Fish Augmentation Plan and both support the implementation of this plan (see letters CDFG dated 03/30/06, FWS dated 08/11/06).

The motion was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Phil Lehr, and adopted by consensus.

Status of Database Management Framework Requirements Analysis

Lorri discussed the three options of the database management framework. A summary report was presented May 12, 2006, with a work group meeting on May 24, 2006. Reclamation will be reviewing the options this fall and report back to the Steering Committee.

STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Work Group Meeting – LCR MSCP Status, Early November, 2006

Steering Committee Meeting, April 25, 2007

Steering Committee Meeting, June 27, 2007

Laura Vecerina discussed the schedule for the upcoming year for the Steering Committee. She stated that a schedule will be sent out the end of September. There will be a Work Group meeting in November. Laura informed the group that the LCR MSCP website is being revised to reflect current information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Withdrawal of Proposed Rule to List the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard

Lesley Fitzpatrick stated that the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard (see letter) is a covered species under the LCR MSCP, but with the withdrawal of the proposed rule, the flat-tailed horned lizard does not have a status under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

Outreach Activities

Laura Vecerina presented a revised LCR MSCP logo, a header with tag line, and revised report covers to the Steering Committee. She indicated that the intent of the revisions was to more accurately reflect the partnership nature of the program. She also displayed prototype banners that could be used at conferences and workshops.

MSCP General Briefing

If someone would like the MSCP briefing, she will be more than happy to accommodate.

Managing for Excellence Stakeholders Meeting (addition to agenda)

This was an addition to the agenda. Lorri personally invited the Steering Committee to the Reclamation-sponsored public meeting for the Managing for Excellence Project, which will be held in Salt Lake City, September 19 – 20, 2006, at the Marriott University Park.

SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the April 26, 2006 Meeting Notes was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Maureen George, and adopted by consensus.

Approval of the Fiscal Year 2007 Implementation Work Plan and Budget and that Fiscal Year 2005 financial credits was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Tom Hine, and adopted by consensus.

Approval of the Draft Final Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Phil Lehr, and adopted by consensus.

Approval of the Draft Final Science Strategy was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Monica Swartz, and adopted by consensus.

Approval of the Final Fish Augmentation Plan was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Phil Lehr, and adopted by consensus.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PST.

SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

Steering Committee Meeting August 23, 2006

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be April 25, 2007, at McCarran Airport in Las Vegas.

Action Items

1. ACTION – Approve April 26, 2006, Meeting Notes

The April 26, 2006 Meeting Notes were approved and moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Maureen George, and adopted by consensus.

2. ACTION - PDD 06-002 “Review and Recommendation FY2007 Work Plan and Budget, FY2005 Credit”

The motion was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Tom Hine, and adopted by consensus.

3. ACTION - PDD 06-003 “Review and Acknowledgement Draft Final Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas”

The motion was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Phil Lehr, and adopted by consensus.

4. ACTION - PDD 06-004 “Review and Acknowledgement Draft Final Science Strategy”

The motion was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Monica Swartz, and adopted by consensus.

5. ACTION - PDD 06-005 “Review and Acknowledgement Final Fish Augmentation Plan”

The motion was moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Phil Lehr, and adopted by consensus.